

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00988 201313Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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P 201151Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3258

S E C R E T MANAMA 0988

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP

SUBJECT : SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL

1. BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER, NOTIN REPORTS SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY VISIT IRAN IN EARLY AUGUST, HAS ASKED THAT I CONVEY ONCE AGAIN GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN'S "STANDING INVITATION" TO VISIT BAHJAIN. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT GOB WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE SECRETARY VISIT FOR AS LONG AS HIS SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT, AND THAT EVEN A ONE-HOUR STOP AT THE AIRPORT WOULD BE WELCOME. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WERE AN INHIBITING FACTOR, GOB WOULD BE PREPARED TO KEEP VISIT A SECRET UNTIL AFTER THE FACT.

2. COMMENT: AT SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GULF AMBASSADORS IN RIYADH LAST YEAR PROBLEMS OF VISITING ONE GULF STATE WITHOUT VISITING THEM ALL WERE THOROUGHLY AIRED. THESE CONSIDERATIONS STILL STAND. FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT BAHRAINI INVITATION IS MOST SINCERE.

TWINAM

SECRET

NNN

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